



# 451<sup>ST</sup> AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING

## KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, AFGHANISTAN

### Welcome from the Commander

Congratulations and welcome to the 451<sup>st</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW), the Air Force's newest Wing with a combat mission second to none. As the newest member of the 451<sup>st</sup> AEW, your skills, energy, and can do attitude will play an important role as you tackle an exciting mission here in Afghanistan known as Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. I am confident that you will find the Kandahar experience to be both the most rewarding and most challenging experience of your military career, whether this is your first combat deployment or your fifth. Kandahar Airfield is a large base, with over 20,000 NATO and US Forces. It is also home to Regional Command (RC) South and NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Our 451<sup>st</sup> AEW provides combat forces and humanitarian operations 24/7 to restore a secure and stable Afghanistan. Despite an intense operations tempo, we continue to excel as we take the fight to the enemy and build trust and security for the people of Afghanistan.


We look forward to your arrival and sharing this "Warrior" experience with you. I am confident the skills and energy you bring to the 451<sup>st</sup> will increase our mission capability as we continue to destroy terrorist cells and provide a secure environment for the people of Afghanistan. Let there be no doubt that this is a demanding combat environment - you will work hard, long hours, you will be challenged - but the time will go quickly. This deployment is the experience of a lifetime.

The 451<sup>st</sup> AEW mission is to provide a persistent and powerful presence of airpower using 6 types of aircraft. Our key flying missions include Close Air Support (A-10C), Tactical Airlift (C-130J), Data link Command and Control Data link (B/D700 TAG), ISR (MQ-1/MA-9) and Search and Rescue (HH-60). We assist joint, coalition, and interagency partners in promoting a more capable and effective government in Afghanistan. Done right, our mission will enable the Afghan Government to provide internal security with limited international support. We will also disrupt and destroy terrorist networks in Afghanistan, degrading any ability to plan and launch international terrorist attacks.

Attached are several important notes to familiarize you with Afghanistan and our Wing mission. Experienced AOR members developed this for you to highlight essential information specific to Kandahar Airfield. Take special note of General Order No.1, and commit it to memory.

If you have any questions concerning your deployment, please contact the 451 AEW/PERSCO at DSN 318-463-1162/1141. Again I look forward to your arrival and serving with you. I leave you with the 451<sup>st</sup> motto;

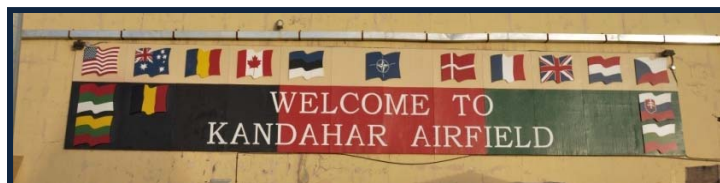
*"Persistent Powerful Presence."*

  
GUY M. WALSH  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Commander

### Chief's Notes

Welcome to Kandahar Airfield (KAF) and the 451<sup>st</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing! This deployment is sure to be a unique experience. KAF is a NATO base supporting both OEF and the International Security Assistance Forces' mission. You will live and work among soldiers, sailors, and marines as well as the military forces of our allies from Great Britain, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and other nations.

The 451<sup>st</sup> AEW is engaged in multiple missions supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Let there be no doubt, you are coming to a **combat zone**! Discipline and vigilance are imperative to success. When you arrive, you will receive a comprehensive briefing from the Wing Commander on the operational and support facets of the Wing's mission. The mission here can be very challenging at times...you will have a direct impact in supporting Overseas Contingency Operations.




Whether this is your first deployment or you have deployed multiple times, take the necessary steps to prepare yourself spiritually, mentally and physically before you arrive. Ensure your affairs at home station are in order to prevent any distractions while you are deployed.

Don't forget to establish some personal and professional goals you would like to achieve while deployed. We have excellent chapel, fitness and education programs.

There is the possibility of delays as you transit into and through the AOR since there are no direct flights to KAF and many of you will need to pick up gear at one of the Expeditionary Theater Distribution Centers. Pack your carry-on for several days and remain patient and focused. Stay in touch with your POC to keep them informed as you transition thru the AOR.

Please feel free to call or email me with any concerns you have and I'll do everything I can to get you the answers you need. I can be reached at DSN: 318-463-1203 or via email at [steve.mcdonald@kdab.afcent.af.mil](mailto:steve.mcdonald@kdab.afcent.af.mil). Good luck and have a safe trip to KAF.

*"Don't count the days....make the days count."*

  
STEVE K. McDONALD, CMSgt, USAF  
Command Chief



# THE FACTS

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## Kandahar Airfield (KAF), Afghanistan

Kandahar is located in the southeastern portion of Afghanistan at the edge of the Margow Desert. The camp sits on an ancient dry lake bed and is surrounded by mountains. Conditions are very dusty - this environment is extremely harsh on electronics, so think twice about what you bring. Some individuals have brought laptops and DVD players, but the choice is yours.

This region still sees activity by Taliban and Al Qaeda forces. Receive the most in-depth intelligence briefing you can before departing your home station. Force protection and safety are our primary concerns. Our first goal is to get everyone home safely. COMKAF rules and Wing policies are in place so we can achieve that goal.



## Kandahar Climate



**Sandstorm that hit KAF in August 2008**  
Photo courtesy of CE Flight

**Rainy Season is November through May**  
**Total Rainfall is between 5 and 7 inches**

Month	Avg Low Temp	Avg High Temp	Extreme Low Temp	Extreme High Temp
Jan	32F	56F	10F	79F
Feb	38F	61F	16F	83F
Mar	46F	73F	25F	101F
Apr	54F	82F	36F	103F
May	60F	93F	43F	109F
Jun	67F	102F	47F	113F
Jul	73F	105F	58F	120F
Aug	68F	101F	48F	111F
Sep	56F	93F	41F	112F
Oct	48F	83F	30F	99F
Nov	38F	71F	14F	87F
Dec	33F	60F	5F	77F

## General Order No. 1

General Order No.1B (GO No.1B) is enforced at KAF. Among other things, GO No.1B prohibits the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or nonprescription drugs, possession of pornography and entering sleeping quarters of the opposite gender. These are serious offenses and the consequences are severe.

## Weapons

AFCENT reporting instructions have changed. Depending on the UTC that you're filling, you **may or may not** be required to bring a weapon (M-16 or M-9). If required, ensure that you have a locking weapons case to transport your weapon to the AOR. Do not put your weapon inside your luggage as it must be in a locked weapons case. Bring 7 empty M-16 or 3 empty M-9 magazines with you and enough ammunition pouches to carry them. **Do not bring ammunition.** It will be issued when you in-process.

## Mail

Your mailing address here will be:

**Name:** NO RANK

**Unit** 451 AEW or whatever Group assigned/Office symbol or your specific unit here if you know it

**APO AE 09355**

Mail takes 7-10 days to arrive from the states. We receive mail seven days a week. It may take up to 3-5 weeks for mail to arrive in the States from here. Stamps are not required to send letters/postcards from KAF. The post office accepts cash and Eagle Card **ONLY**. All boxes will be inspected by customs prior to being shipped. Please make sure to tell your family as you depart Kandahar, packages received after you redeploy will be forwarded to the address you provide during out-processing.

## Meals

There are at least six dining facilities serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and midnight chow. You can also buy snacks at the PX or pick up food at the Boardwalk which houses Subway, Burger King, Pizza Hut and Tim Hortons' donuts. Additionally, there is the All Seasons restaurant as well as Green Bean Café nearby.

## Living Conditions

Due to the large influx of personnel arriving at Kandahar daily, you should expect to reside in Harvest Falcon tent city. Most tents are equipped with bunk beds and sleep up to 40 per tent. Additionally, wall or footlockers are provided. You may choose to bring your personal laptop computer; however, personal computers cannot be connected to the base network. There is limited wireless connectivity located adjacent to the Boardwalk. As a reminder, conditions are very dusty for electronic devices. Also, there are several MWR tents on KAF that offer TV, movies, games, social events and fitness activities, all of which are conveniently located near our billets. Our Camp Samek has an MWR tent and a fitness tent for your use.



## Laundry

Free laundry service is provided with 48-hour turn around, or, if you prefer to wash your own laundry, washers and dryers are a short walk from billeting. You will need to provide your own laundry detergent.

## Contact Information

If you have any questions, please contact PERSCO at DSN 318-463-1362/1141 or email

[451emsg.persco@kdab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:451emsg.persco@kdab.centaf.af.mil).



## Travel to KAF

Make 10 copies of your orders prior to leaving home. Leave a copy with your Next of Kin or spouse in case of emergencies. Official orders will serve as your plane tickets for traveling to, around, and from the theater. You'll also need 3 copies to file with your travel voucher.

Make sure you are authorized excess baggage on your orders. Pack as compressed as possible; there are points along your journey where you will have to claim your luggage and move it quite a distance. Don't make bags so heavy that they can't be lifted. Most airlines' max weight is 50 pounds per bag. We also strongly suggest putting a copy of orders inside each piece of luggage in case it gets lost. Mark your bags with bright tape or ribbon so you can pick them out of a mass.

If traveling commercially, you should wear your ABU or appropriate civilian clothes. Once you board the rotator from Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI) or Norfolk (ORF), into the AOR, you must be in uniform. Be prepared for overnight layovers. Most people will depart from their home station and travel to BWI or Norfolk. When you reach the airport, you must claim your baggage. After claiming your baggage, proceed to the international terminal located on the upper level in Terminal E at BWI or to the Naval Air Station at Norfolk. Check in for the rotator flight usually begins 6 hours before the show time. The check-in line can be up to 2 hours long. Have baggage ID tags on all of your bags. Always have a copy of your orders and your ID card ready.

Both terminals have a USO lounge where you can sleep, sit, watch TV, phone home or check your luggage. If you are in an airport without a USO, look for an American Airlines (AA) Ambassador lounge. AA has recently changed their rules to allow GIs with a military ID card to use their Ambassador lounge free of charge.

Do not enter a bar in a commercial airport while in uniform, and do not show up intoxicated for a flight. You will be held responsible for missing your troop movement, which is an UCMJ offense.

There are several routes from the CONUS to KAF and you could be delayed in route. Make sure you have clothing for unexpected stops. Also, make sure your route hits either Manas or Al Udeid as this is where you will be issued body armor and a C-Bag. Once you've been hand-receipted those items, check with the PAX terminal representatives to determine the quickest travel arrangements for KAF. This is important: This is a combat zone! Do not travel into Afghanistan without your body armor, weapon (if required) and C-bag!

## Helpful Travel Tips Courtesy of 451 ELRS Log Plans

Traveling to Kandahar can be time consuming. Following these simple steps should assist. Travel as light as possible. You'll be picking up 2-3 additional bags in Manas. Additionally, the C-bags that you pickup in Manas are the same color as the 200-300 other members you're traveling with. Plan ahead and bring additional, distinctive markings to easily identify your bags.

Upon arriving in Manas you will receive a briefing from PERSCO and Log Plans. Travel arrangements from Manas to Kandahar will be made by Manas Log Plans and posted in the Manas Pax Terminal. Please be sure to frequently check your flight info, because it can change at any moment.

Be sure to communicate with your sponsor as much as possible. Relay any flight info/changes that you have to your sponsor so they will be able to meet and greet you once you land at Kandahar. Helpful Numbers for flight info: Manas Log Plans - 318-441-5419, Kandahar Log Plans - 318-463-1301

## Camp Uniforms

Uniform of the Day (UOD) for Kandahar is ABUs or Desert Flight Dress Uniform (DFDU). In order to prevent malaria, sleeves will be rolled down at all times. The only authorized Command patch is the USAFCENT patch if you are wearing DFDUs. During off duty hours, personnel will wear the ABU/DFDU or the USAF Physical Training Uniform, shirt tucked in, when outside their living quarters.



## Recommended Items

It is highly recommended that you bring the following items with you:

- 1 week of all uniform clothing items
- 2 large towels
- Linen for a single bed or sleeping bag
- Toiletries & toiletry bag
- Shower shoes/extra pair of athletic shoes for use in the NATO gymnasium (must hand carry clean pair)
- Personal checks and or debit/credit card
- Small flashlight with extra batteries
- Rank (if being promoted during your deployment)
- Sewing kit (alteration shop available in PX concession)
- Alarm clock, battery operated
- Pad or combo locks for luggage and lockers
- For the AOR, Kandahar has a PX with most of what you need. With the influx of personnel, bring at least a 60 day supply of critical items. However, if you prefer a particular brand it may not be available. Bring extra or arrange to have the items shipped to you.

## Mandatory Items

You are required to bring the following items with you on your deployment:

- ID Card (expiration date needs to be 30 days beyond estimated tour length)
- 10 copies of your CED Orders (minimum)
- AF Form 245 (2 copies) (completed employment locator card)
- Dog Tags
- AF Form 623 (OJT Records) TSgt & below
- Shot Record / DD Form 2766C (Vaccination Admin Record)
- Virtual MPF and MyPay user name + PIN numbers
- DD Form 2766 (Medical)
- AF Form 522 (Weapons Qualification)
- Government Travel Card (if you have one)
- NATO Orders with blue stamp
- Personal prescriptions for the duration of your deployment
- Malaria Pills for the duration of your deployment (Malaria is year round-bring pills no matter what anyone tells you)
- If you do not receive Smallpox inoculation prior to deployment you must bring documentation of waiver
- ABUs (4 pr w/all rank insignia and tapes sewn on)
- ABU cap or eight point USMC style DCU or Boonie Cap (recommend officers sew rank on)
- 2 pair of desert/Sage boots
- DCU/ABU Gortex Jacket w/Cold Weather Liner (liner required Oct-Mar) and Gortex Pants
- Work gloves
- Minimum 4 sets of USAF Physical Training Uniforms (mandatory for wear at KAF; no civilian PT gear authorized) - PX carries limited supply.
- Complete C-Bag (no need to bring Atropine injectors) – You will receive your C-Bag at Manas or Al Udeid
- Extra pairs of sunglasses, glasses (contacts not allowed without CC permission due to dusty conditions)
- Ballistic eyewear and dust goggles
- Reflective belt
- Security Clearance: If your clearance is going through Periodic Investigation then it must be submitted through the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) prior to deployment.
- Airman's Manual
- Eagle Cash Card (See details on the AFCENT out-processing checklist last page)



## Prescriptions

KAF is in a year-round malaria risk zone. Everyone is required to be on anti-malaria medication. You should begin taking your anti-malaria medication one week prior to arriving in the AOR. Ensure you pre-treat your uniforms with Permethrin prior to departure. All personnel must get the smallpox vaccination prior to departing their home station (unless medically exempt). Because we have individuals with open smallpox vaccinations and close living conditions on the camp, we highly recommend that personnel do not get new tattoos for at least three weeks prior to arriving in the AOR. We have limited medical facilities with limited resources. You should bring enough prescription medication for your entire length of stay.

## Finances

There is an Army finance office located on KAF. You can cash personal checks up to \$200 per month. Finance and the PX will not accept anything larger than a \$50 bill. There is one ATM on KAF. Local currency is not required. Remember to bring your MyPay user ID and PIN number. You can write checks and use credit cards at the PX. You can write checks or use your debit card to get up to \$20 over your purchase amount. Some of your deployed benefits include:

**Eagle Cash Card** – All personnel deploying to Kandahar are **required** to have the Eagle Cash Card. The card can be obtained at Manas Air Base, Al Udeid, Qatar, or when you arrive at Kandahar Air Field (KAF)

### Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

You can contribute up to \$16,500 a year of normal pay and up to \$49,000 a year of combat pay/incentives (CY 2009 limit). Check out [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov) for more info.

### Savings Deposit Program (SDP)

SDP pays 10 percent annual interest on deposits of up to \$10,000, compounded quarterly and will continue to accrue up to 90 days following redeployment. You are able to make a deposit after serving 30 consecutive days and the deposit cannot exceed your monthly unallotted income.

### Family Separation Pay (FSA) - \$250 a month

Airmen with family members are eligible to receive family separation pay of \$250 a month. (Will receive post deployment after Travel Voucher is complete)

### Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay (HFP/IDP) - \$225 a month

Intended to compensate Airmen serving in locations where they are subjected to imminent danger and/or hostile fire.

### Hardship Duty Pay (HDP-L) - \$100 a month for Afghanistan

A special pay intended to compensate Airmen serving in locations where living conditions create undue hardship on them. (Will receive post deployment after Travel Voucher is complete)

### Federal Tax Exclusion

Combat zone tax exclusion is all base pay for enlisted and up to \$6,529.20 base pay per month for officers.

<https://intranet.auab.centaf.ds.af.mil/organizations/379ecpts/FMF.htm> - AUAB Finance website

<http://266fincom1.hqusareur.army.mil> - A lot of good info!

<http://www.choosetosave.org> - Free info to military personnel

### Deployment Resource Web Sites

<https://wwwmil.afcent.af.mil/deployment/>

<https://aef.afpc.randolph.af.mil/default.aspx>

